

Appl. No. 09/553,669

Amdt. Dated May 13, 2004

• Reply to Office communication of May 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 140, 160 – 163 were previously canceled.

Claims 141 – 149, 152 – 155, 158, 159 remain in this application.

Claim 141, 158, 159 have been amended.

Claims 150, 151, 156, 157 have been canceled.

Claim 141 has been amended for the following reasons:

To include the allowable subject matter of claim 151 and intervening claim 150.

Claim 158 has been amended for the following reasons:

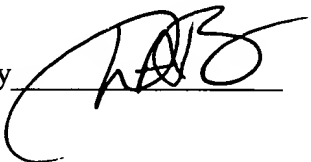
To reference independent claim 141.

Claim 159 has been amended for the following reasons:

To reference independent claim 141.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By  13 MAY 04

Dennis A. Brittain Ph.D.

Tel.: (858) 541-2556